

Notice of Proposed Action – Minerva 5 Fire Salvage Project
Plumas National Forest
Mt. Hough Ranger District
Quincy, California

Opportunity to Comment on the Minerva 5 Fire Salvage Project

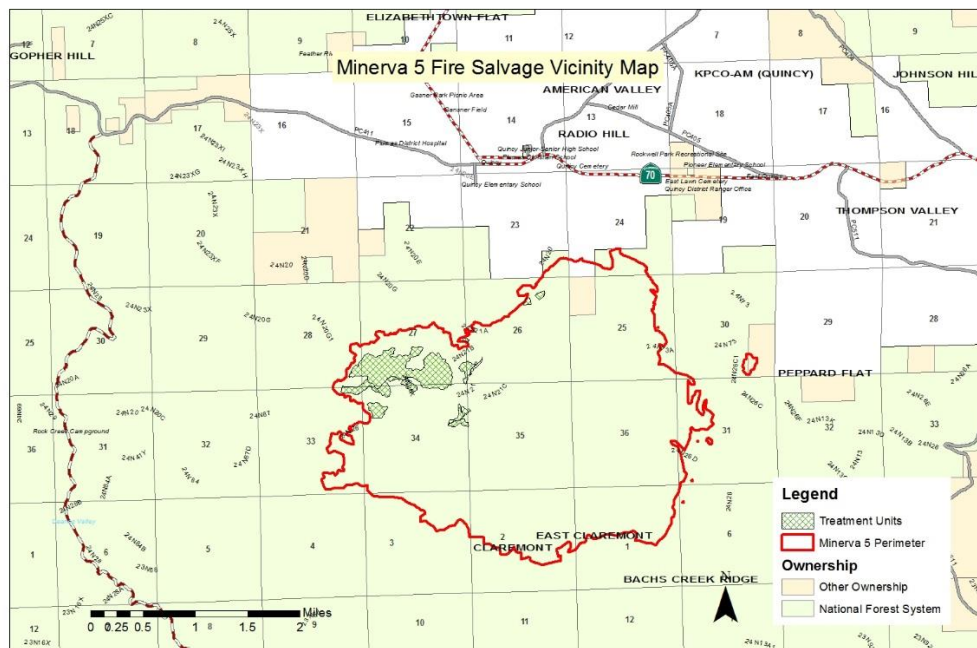
The Minerva 5 Fire started on July 29, 2017. The fire was contained at 4,340 acres on August 17, 2017. The fire burned 4,255 acres of the Plumas National Forest and 85 acres of privately-owned land. The Minerva fire perimeter is almost entirely within the threat zone of the Wildland-Urban Interface above the town of Quincy, CA.

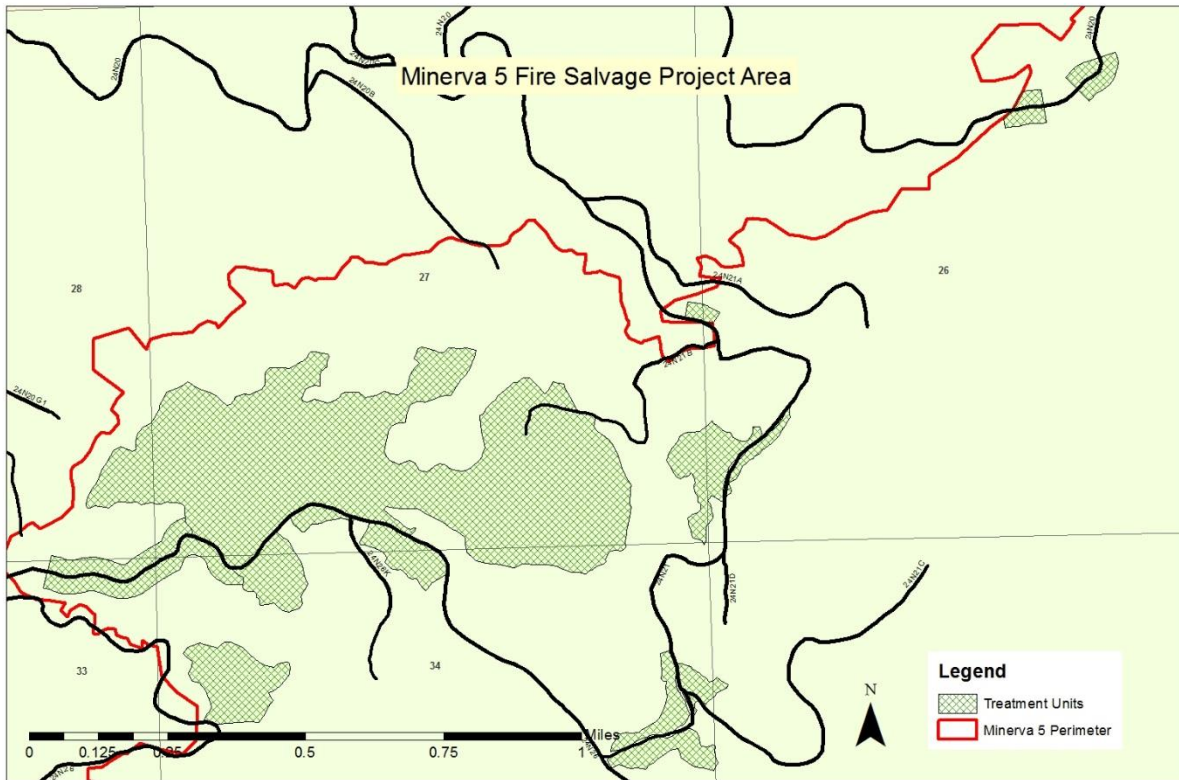
The Minerva fire burned at mixed severity, with varied effects to vegetation. Approximately 1,067 acres of National Forest Land (25%) burned at moderate to high severity. The Mount Hough Ranger District of the Plumas National Forest proposes to salvage dead and dying timber from some of these moderate to high severity burned areas within the Minerva perimeter. The primary goal of the Minerva 5 Fire Salvage is economic recovery of timber value lost as a result of the wildfire. Secondary benefits within salvage units may include roadside hazard tree removal, reforestation, and fuel reduction where appropriate.

This project is approximately 212 acres in total treatment area.

Project Location:

The project is located on the Mt. Hough Ranger District in Plumas County, CA, two miles southwest of Quincy, CA. T24N R9E Sections 26, 27, 28, 33, 34, 35 with the majority of the salvage operations in section 27.





The majority of trees proposed for removal occur in high severity burned areas; however, hazard trees within mixed severity burned areas would also be included within units adjacent to public access roadways where burned trees pose a genuine risk of falling into the roadway.

The project has been designed to avoid sensitive and protected areas including Sierra Nevada Yellow Legged Frog suitable habitat, archaeological sites, and riparian conservation areas. Eighty percent of moderate to high severity burned areas within the Minerva 5 fire perimeter have been excluded from the treatment areas as habitat reserves for the Black-backed Woodpecker and other fire-obligate wildlife species.

How to Comment and Timeframe

Comments will be accepted for 30 calendar days following publication of this notice in the Feather River Bulletin. Information on the project can be found online at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=52726>

Provide comments by mail, fax, email, or in-person to the responsible official, Daniel Lovato, Forest Supervisor, c/o Kyla Sabo, District NEPA Coordinator, at the Mt. Hough Ranger District, 39696 Highway 70; email address: kylasabo@fs.fed.us; fax number: (530) 283-1821; phone number: (530) 283-7619. Comments can also be electronically mailed to comments-pacificsouthwest-plumas-mthugh@fs.fed.us. Please indicate the name “**Minerva 5 Fire Salvage Project**” on the subject line of your email. Acceptable formats for electronic submissions include email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), Word (.doc or .docx) or portable document file (.pdf). Submit hand-delivered comments during business hours Monday through Friday, 8:00am-4:30pm.

